

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Military Information Concerning the Sariwon
Area

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1. About 20 April 1951, the People's Committee of Sariwon (125-46, 38-30) forced all farmers and children living in Huanghae Province to move to Manchuria. Boys between 14 and 16 years old were mobilized under the pretext of working on the reconstruction of Pyongyang, but they were instead forced to go to Manchuria. About 450 boys were taken away.
2. In early April, Chinese Communist troops about three kilometers northwest of Onjong-ni (125-26, 38-34) were impressing 4,000 persons daily from surrounding areas to act as laborers. The workers were kept for four days and worked from 2000 to 0500 hours each night. The project on which they were engaged was some construction, the exact nature undisclosed, which involved leveling fields. Many small grass huts were seen in the working area.
3. Between 8 and 24 May, large numbers of Chinese Communist and North Korean troops moved from Sariwon to the Pyongyang area on foot, traveling on a new stretch of highway built about a mile east of the main Sariwon-Hwangju (125-47, 38-40) road. These troops were equipped only with small arms, having about one rifle to every three men and two or three hand grenades apiece. During the day, the men hid in village houses along the road; they walked in loose formation during the hours of darkness. The number of men moving was estimated by an observer at approximately 1,700 a day.
4. During the same period, daylight traffic of wounded Chinese Communist and North Korean troops averaged about 200 persons daily on this road, and the total movement day and night, on foot and in carts, was estimated at 1,500 persons. The wounded stated that the last treatment they had received was ten days earlier and asked villagers for wheat flour for compresses. On 13 May, 50 girls 17 to 30 years old, in civilian clothes, were seen north of Sariwon being escorted toward Pyongyang by a small number of North Korean troops.

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About 15 May, 50 Soviet trucks and 200 horse and ox carts were being used by Chinese and Korean troops to haul food supplies from Sinchon (125-30, 38-21) and Chaseryong (125-37, 38-24) to villages near Sariwon. Some supplies were stored at Sariwon, but some were being taken by train from there to Pyongyang, in freight cars which remained hidden in tunnels during daylight hours.

On 17 May, about 1,700 Chinese and North Korean cavalry arrived at Sunam-ni (125-49, 38-15) from the direction of Sariwon. They had 200 horses, five field guns, four anti-aircraft guns, and two heavy machine guns, and each of the men had an M/N rifle and four to five grenades. The troops were dressed in North Korean summer uniforms. They were fed rice which had been confiscated in the Yonheuk (125-59, 37-56) area as taxes. On 23 May the unit dug itself in on the mountains in the area, hiding the horses among trees.

On 21 May, a North Korean unit headquarters at Kongsu-ni (125-58, 38-06) had 400 troops attached to the headquarters and groups of 400 men each at Tonggi-dong (125-47, 38-03) and T'agyon-ni (126-02, 38-04). The men had M/N rifles and two grenades each, and the unit had 18 machine guns and 15 horse-carts.

On 20 May, unidentified elements of the North Korean 37 Division, 6 Corps, at Mulgae-ni (126-19, 38-23), had their headquarters in a dugout at the foot of a mountain about two kilometers east of the town. The troops wore summer uniforms and were equipped with M/N rifles and three grenades each; the unit had six 75mm guns, 10 machine guns, and 30 light machine guns. Rations for the men were confiscated from local supplies.

On 25 May, about 1,500 North Korean troops in the mountains of Yongsan-myon (125-59, 38-10) were equipped with M/N rifles and two or three grenades each, and 12 Japanese field guns and 20 machine guns for the unit. Their rations were supplied by the people's committees of local villages or were obtained by confiscation.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The project was apparently airfield construction. [REDACTED]
concerning airfields in this area.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. Presumably, this refers to the Soviet Moisin-Nagant rifle.

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